## NIAGARA'S FATAL FORCE EXPLAINED.

Science Shows How the Great Cataract Woos So Many Victims to Death.

The Gliding Current and Swirling Rapids Are Possessed of Tremendous Hypnotic Power.

Nothing Is More Reasonable Than That They Should Lure Happy and Contented Persons to Suicide.

HUNDREDS HAVE DIED AT THE FALLS.

Dr. Luys, the Great French Physician, Believes That the Attraction of the Cataract May Well Prove Irresistible to Weak Minds.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., Jan. 18.—Niagara Falls is now recognized by science as a marvellous illustration of the hypnotlem of nature. Its fatal power has lured more than a thousand persons to their death. It Bath Bridge could speak, if the whirling rapids and the jagged rocks at the base of the American Falls that glisten in the sunghit were only able to tell what they have writnessed, they could relate tales of faspination and resultant plunges into eternity that it would be difficult indeed to parallel. Even in the days when the country round about Niagara was one of the favorite haunts of the Great Spirit, and that the thunder of the Great Spirit, and

The selection made on an appointed day, the girl was placed in a canoe dressed as was pushed from shore, borne down by the swift current to the falls, and, with its ecupant singing songs of joy, swept over the brink of the cataract. In this manner the bride of the Great Spirit was supposed to have joined him. It was a highly prized honor, and the girl selected the envy of the

One year it chanced that the girl chosen to join the Great Spirit was the daughter of the tribe's head chief and her father's father, with Indian stoicism, gave no sign of his sorrow. At last her bridal day came, he canoe from shore should start his laughter on her bridal journey. When the has it, the chief placed his daughter in the canoe. Grasping the craft as if to push it far into the river, he stood inactive for a moment. Then he suddenly stepped into the canoe beside his daughter. In another moment the little boat was away from shore, and before the members of the tribe recovered from their astonishment and horror, father and daughter had been

swept over the cataract's brink.
From this another legend has grown that the spirit of the Indian girl haunts falls and river and by her unseen infuence urges those who visit the place to follow in her footsteps, into the river and

Of the hypnotic power of Niagara, however, there is no question. Few people who have not visited them can realize the peculiar effect the monotonous roar and the swiftly moving tons of water have upon beholders. Strong-minded persons can admire the beautiful scenery, the picturesque effects and the great fall of water. They go away charmed. Weaker-minded indi-viduals, however, are fascinated, and many of them have confessed that they have had to struggle to resist the almost irresistible impulse to become a part of

have had to struggle to resist the almost irresistible impulse to become a part of the swiftly moving and feam-crested rapids as the torrent sweeps on to the brink of the abyss.

All persons at all familiar with hypnotic power and its source can understand what effect results from fixedly gazing at a steadily moving body. Even persons of the strongest minds are seriously affected thereby, and if continued a sufficient length of time the person will certainly become hypnotized.

Dr. Luys, one of the foremost of French medical men, said in discussing this subject: "The results of continuously gazing at running water must of necessity be of a hypnotic nature. Unconscious of the effect of such action until it is too late to sinke off the hypnotic influence a person gradually loses his powers and succumbs to the irresistible. You often read, too, of an experienced bicycle rider having a mysterious, unexplainable fail. To me the explanation is simple enough. In a moment of abstraction the rider's gaze became fixed on the rushing ground directly beneath his wheel. Each second chained his attention to the ground more firmly, until all at once he fell to the ground, unable to maintain his equilibrium.

"It is a mistaken idea to suppose that hypnotic influence is the result of a stronger mind. The old method of hypnotism was to cause the subject to look one steadily in the eye while the operator's hands were continuously passed about his head. To be successful by this method the subject must feel he is going to be hypnotized and not offer the silghtest mental objection.

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"Now, we have a machine with which people are hypnotized, the principle being a constantly moving, glittering surface. There is no mind so strong that it will not eventually yield to this method. It is merely the result of nature's law."

So it may be seen that Ningara is not unlike the French hypnotic machine, with the moving, glistening surface. All that is necessary to prove this is to stand on Bath Bridge and gaze steadfastiy at the current. A slight effect is experienced almost immediately, and this effect grows momentarily. A person with a pliant mind would naturally succumb sconer than one of a determined character. Let one of the most pronounced of the class mentioned look at the current from Bath Bridge for five minutes and be will almost have to grasp the railing to keep himself from involuntary suicide.

Undoubtedly this power of Niagara's waters is what has given the town the name of "The Suicide's Paradise." Any one who has paid especial attention to the causes to which the Niagara suicides are ascribed must wonder at the astourdingly large proportion declared to be due to insanity—that is, no reason could be learned for them. As a matter of fact, the cases are diagnosed wrongly. The cause in ninety per cent of the alleged insanity cases is hypnotic, and it is doubtful if the suicide realized he was taking his own life before the current dashed him over the falls.

It is not uncommon for one of these suicides after the plunge into the river to shriek for help and fight despectately against the fate that is of his own choosing. Quite probably the hypnotic influence under which these-people labored has been



Stoop Over That Swiftly Flowing, Glistening Current and You Will Feel the Mysterious Attraction Which Has Wooed Many to Their Death.



## STRANGE GIFTS FOR AN ANGRY GODDESS.

B ship, frenzied by fear, weirdly picturesque, strangely occupied, are silhouetted against a dreadful red glare in the sky over Huwaii every night now. They are fire worshippers, at least, they are superstitious persons who, with the memory of the death volcano has caused in the past, are endeavoring by offering sacrifices to its patron spirit, the Goddess Pell, to prevent it from overwhelming their homes and roasting them allve this time.

Their fear is based on horrors which have been rarely paralleled in history, and if it All Sorts of Offerings, from Young drives them to forgetfulness of their new Christianity and back to memory of their old heathen forms of worship, it is not sur-

Something or somebody has angered Hon- WEIRD FIGURES AGAINST A RED SKY. oluiu's dread Goddess Pell, and she has once more, after a long quiescent retreat, rushed out of her fastness of Hale-maumau. She has smashed the great black floor of Kilauea. The big volcano of Hawall is once more in eruption. Coupled with kas' fear and superstition which lie under with their veneer of Christianity in a ferment. To the Hawalians, Pell is the Siva, the Theorem

Lives and Homes by Making Sacrifices to Peli.

and destruction which the island's great The Great Fire Woman, Power. of Evil, Must Be Propitiated to Prevent a Horror.

> Pigs to Human Beings, Thrown Into the Boiling Crater.

New-Found Christianity Is Forgotten In the Emergency Which Only the Old Heathenism Seems to Meet.

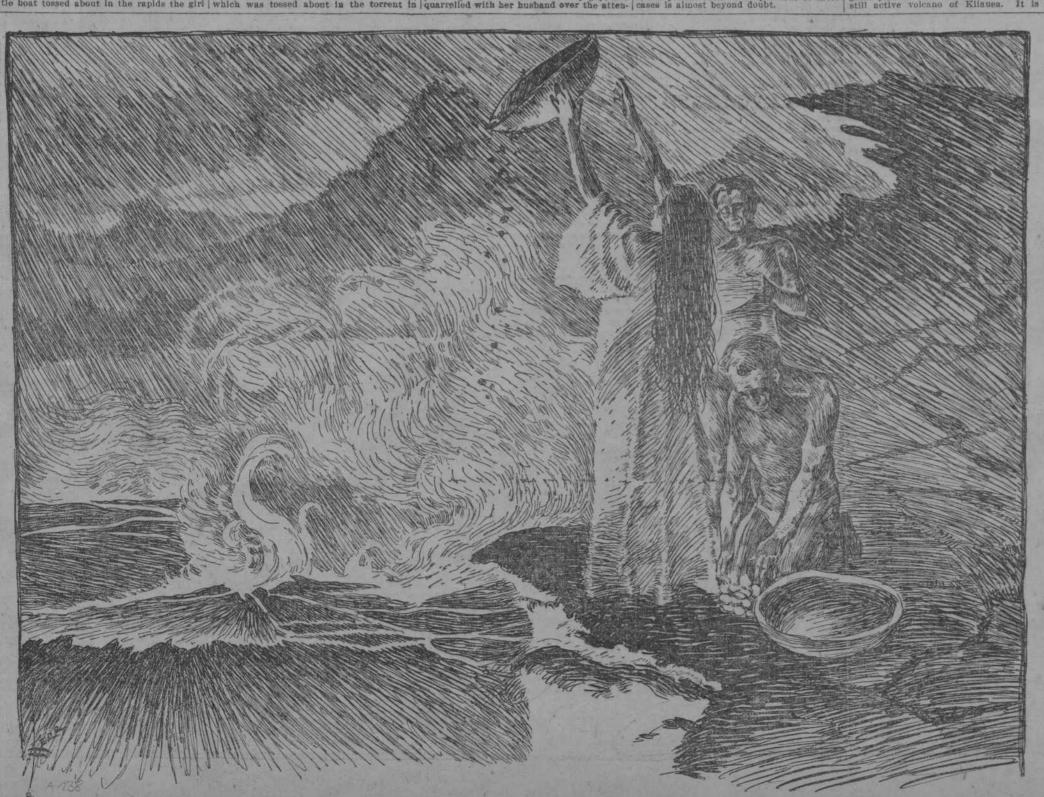
plagy back into the burning lake.

The propiliation of Pell is not always so easy a matter, however, and when she rises in her anger, instead of finding one vent for it, she breaks out all over the great lava floor, and then, instead of the one burning river of Hale-man-man, the whole crater of Kilauca is turned into a pit of flame. The lava floor melts like sugar in hot water, the great bidden reservoirs of molten rock are emptied and the burning, tumbling, boiling mass rises and riseg until its millions of cubic feet are filled and it flows over the edge of the cap.

Not once or twice has Pell thus risen, but many times. Even within the memory of the present generation Waikiki has been invaded by the lava torrent from Kilauca, and only a year or two ago a great red-hot river crept down and stayed only when within a mile or two of the pretty scapert of Hilo. When such an eruption takes place, with its accompanying earthquakes, a general disruption of the elements, the Kanaka feels that while the missionary may be great. Pell is greater.

Canine Dades of Paris.

Canine Dudes of Paris. Paris, the acknowledged centre of fashlon, can even boast of its dog-tallors. A fin-de-siecle Parisian dog must have tollets for receptions, for race meetings and for the seaside, and even a pocket for its rallthe senside, and even a pocket for its rall-way ticket. On wet days its feet are care-fully protected by india rubber shoes. On the occasion of a recent fashionable wed-ding the animal joined in the bridal pro-cession, being led with silken ribbons by gayly-attired pages. A fashionable dog taflor made the costumes, which matchel the servants' liveries. The quadrapeds are bedecked with white satin and lace and garlanded with orange blossoms. The Pacis-



Strange Offerings Are Given to the Goddess of Fire by the Frightened Natives of Samoa.